



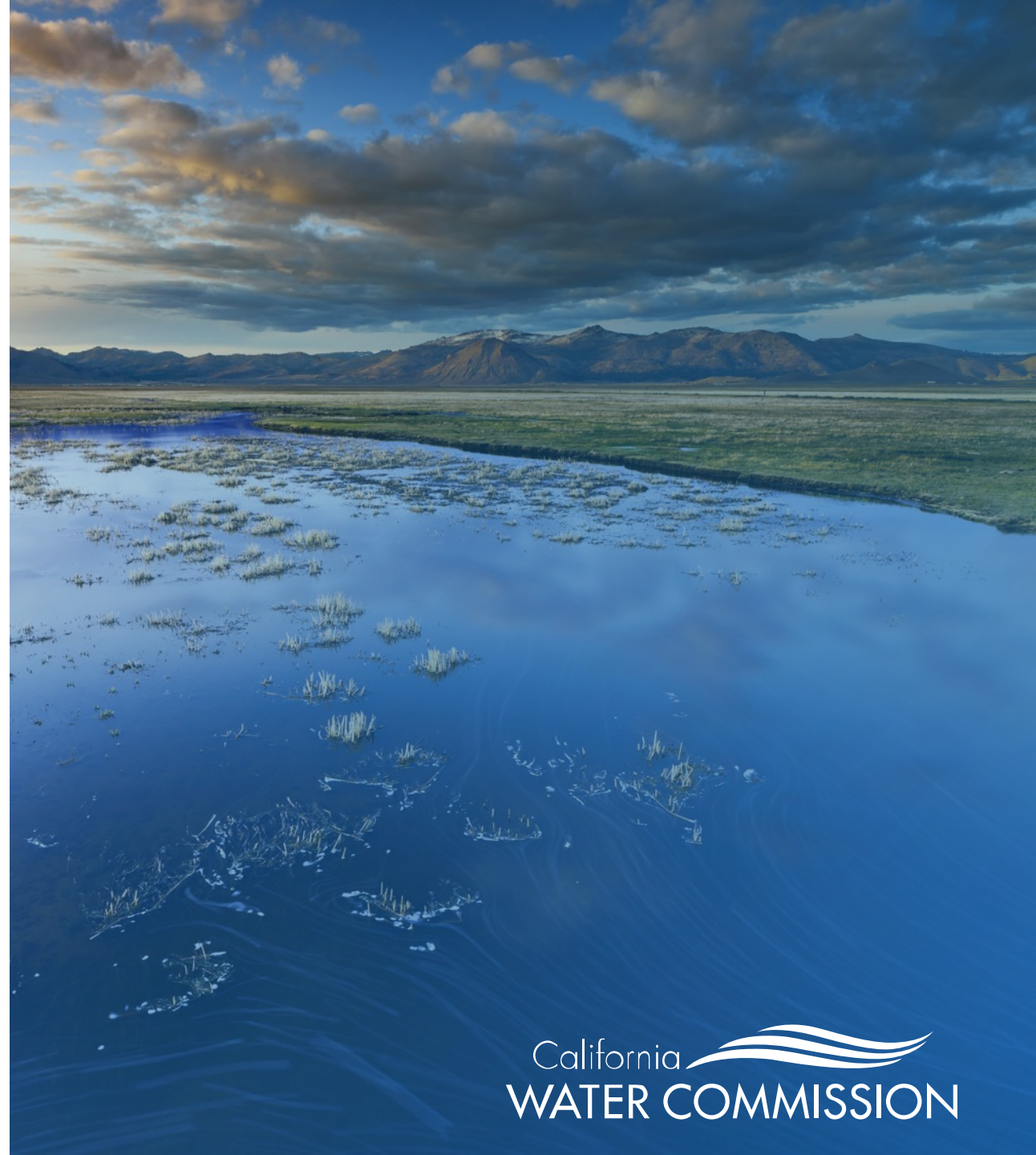
California Water Commission

Regional Conveyance Workshop Overview

By Lisa Beutler, Executive Facilitator
and Megan Murray, Assistant Facilitator

Agenda

- Workshop Overview
- Themes
- Financial Challenges and Opportunities
- Regional Variation



Overview



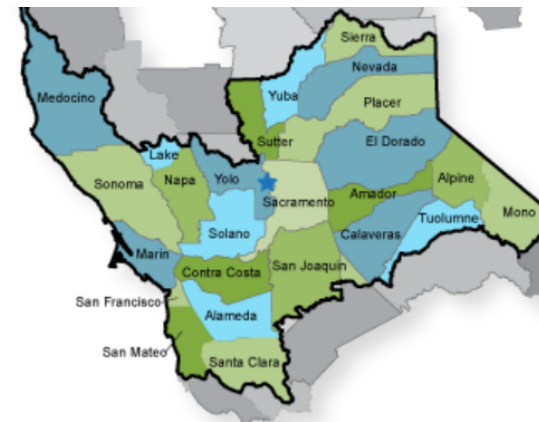
Southeastern California
(Colorado River, South
Lahontan) – Dec. 8, 2020



Southern California –
Dec. 10, 2020




Northern California –
Jan. 12, 2021



Central California –
Jan. 26, 2021

All workshops from 2:30-5 p.m.



Resilience: the ability of a system to respond to and accommodate change, transforming to ensure its functionality and longevity for an extended time horizon.

Water Community Support and Assistance

- San Diego County Water Authority
- Imperial Irrigation District
- Metropolitan Water District
- Southern California Water Coalition
- Santa Ana Watershed Protection Authority
- Round Table of Regions
- Northern California Water Association
- San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority

Nearly 500 Participants

Workshop Themes

What We Learned

Themes

- *One size does not fit all*
- *Conveyance across space, and time*
- *Expansive view of public benefits*
- *Achievement of Environmental and Social Justice*
- *Importance of Stakeholders & Partnerships*
- *Funding beyond capital costs*
- *Need for technology investment*



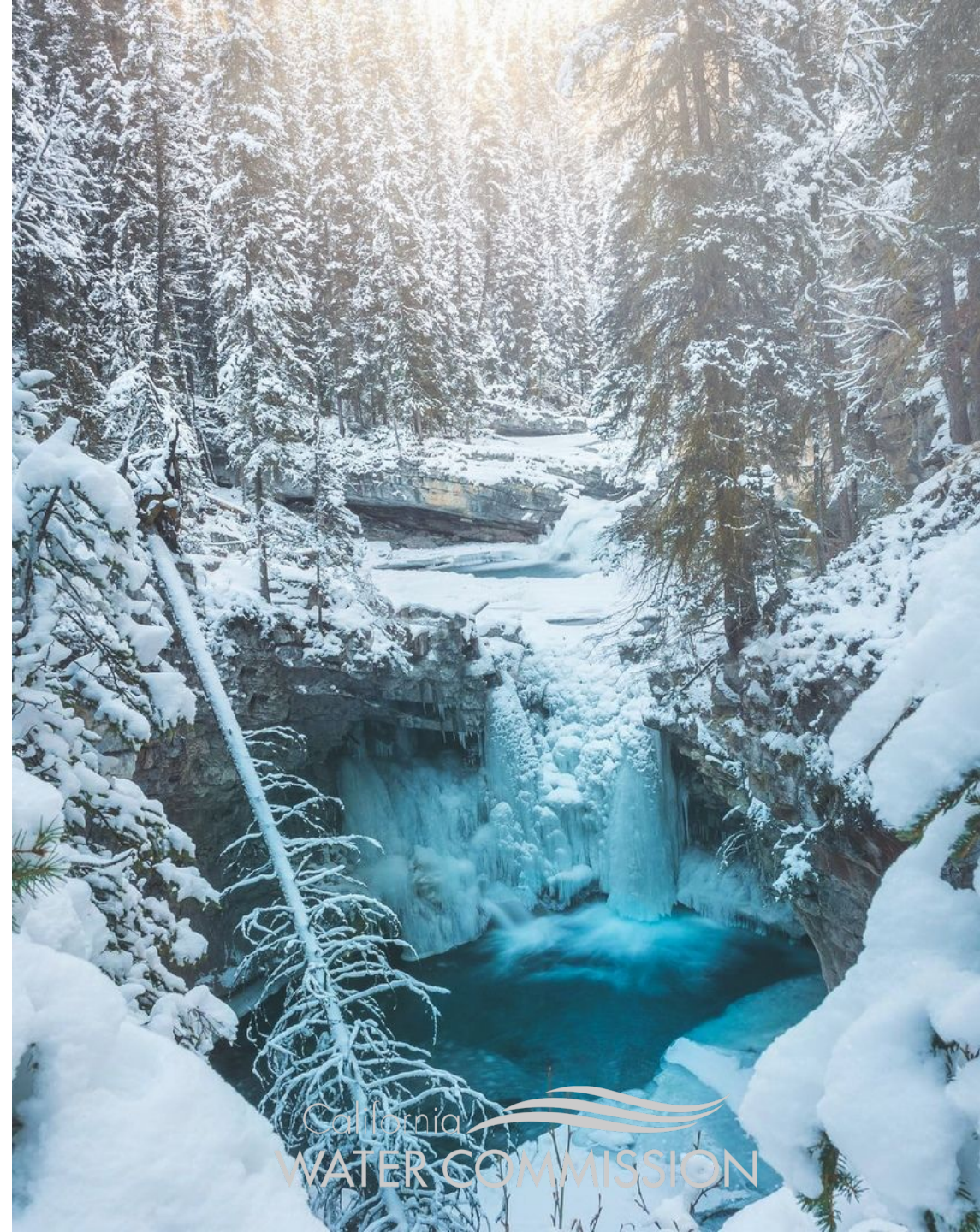
Theme: One Size Does Not Fit All

- Size and Resources
- Demographics/
Customer Base
- Hydrology
- Climate
- Location in System



Theme: Conveyance across space, and time

- Conveyance encompasses all scales—*watershed to premise plumbing*
- Conveyance includes - *natural infrastructure like forests, meadows, rivers, and aquifers*
- Conveying water across time – *catching when it's available and delivering it when it is needed (ex: snowpack, aquifer storage, surface storage)*



Theme: Expansive View of Benefits



- Public benefits can be viewed in multiple ways
 - Job creation
 - Watershed function
 - Water quality
 - Groundwater recharge
 - Flood management
 - Emergency response
 - And more
- Holistic and flexible view of benefits would expand list of potential projects

Theme: Achievement of Environmental and Social Justice

- A continuous process, not a singular destination or outcome.
- How to incorporate members of disadvantaged communities into publicly funded projects
 - As designers
 - As decision-makers
 - As recipients of benefits
- Important to understand the historical context of conveyance—who has been left out or passed by.
- Human Right to Water policy and outcomes can be helpful source for prioritization and planning





Theme: Importance of Stakeholders and Partnerships

- Critical to bring in early and often
- Brings in multiple views, benefits, and financing

Theme: Funding beyond capital costs

- Traditional funding sources only fund capital costs
- Funding needed at all stages of a project
 - Planning and design
 - Facilitation
 - Operation and maintenance (O&M)
- Break down barriers to entry and promote success



Theme: Need for Technology Investment

- Technology can help managers with the connection between storage and conveyance
 - Forecast Informed Reservoir Operation (FIRO)
 - LiDAR
 - Airborne Snow Observatory (ASO)



Financial Challenges and Opportunities

Financing: Barriers and Challenges

- Price tag of conveyance projects
- Grant process
 - Limited applicability
 - Reimbursement requirement
 - Financial and technical burden to apply
 - Matching requirement
- CEQA/permitting
- Credit worthiness
- Prop 218 and public perceptions
- Beneficiary pays (rate payers)



Financing: Options

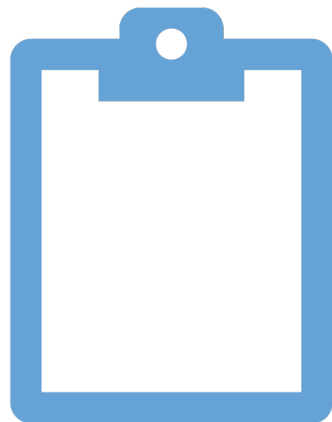
- Bonds
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Low interest loans
 - WIFIA
 - SRF for water supply
 - State Infrastructure Bank
- Workforce programs like AmeriCorps
- Tax (public goods surcharge, green tax)
- Grants by region



Regional Variation

Workshop Prework

- Participants were asked to complete a short survey prior to the workshop on assessment criteria and priorities
- Survey limitations*



Assessment Criteria

The following criteria may be considered for use by the state use to assess the effectiveness of conveyance proposals in improving resilience at local, regional, and state level. What is your assessment of the criteria?

• N=255	Not Important	Moderately Important	Very Important
Climate Governance & Planning - Degree to which climate change adaptation is embedded into the institutions supporting the project.	11%	35%	54%
Resilient Design - Degree to which climate change adaptation is embedded into the project's design.	4%	27%	69%
Multiple Benefits - Degree to which the project serves multiple beneficiaries.	2%	34%	64%
Engagement - Degree to which the project engages partners and collaborates with stakeholders.	4%	35%	60%
System-scale - Degree to which the project supports watershed- or basin-scale solutions.	4%	30%	66%

Assessment Criteria Results by Region

Very Important

More important

Less important

Not important

	Southern	Southeastern	Northern	Central
Climate Governance and Planning	Less important	Less important	Not important	Not important
Resilient Design	Very Important	Very Important	More important	Very Important
Multiple Benefits	Less important	More important	More important	More important
Engagement	More important	Less important	More important	Less important
System-Scale	More important	More important	More important	Very Important

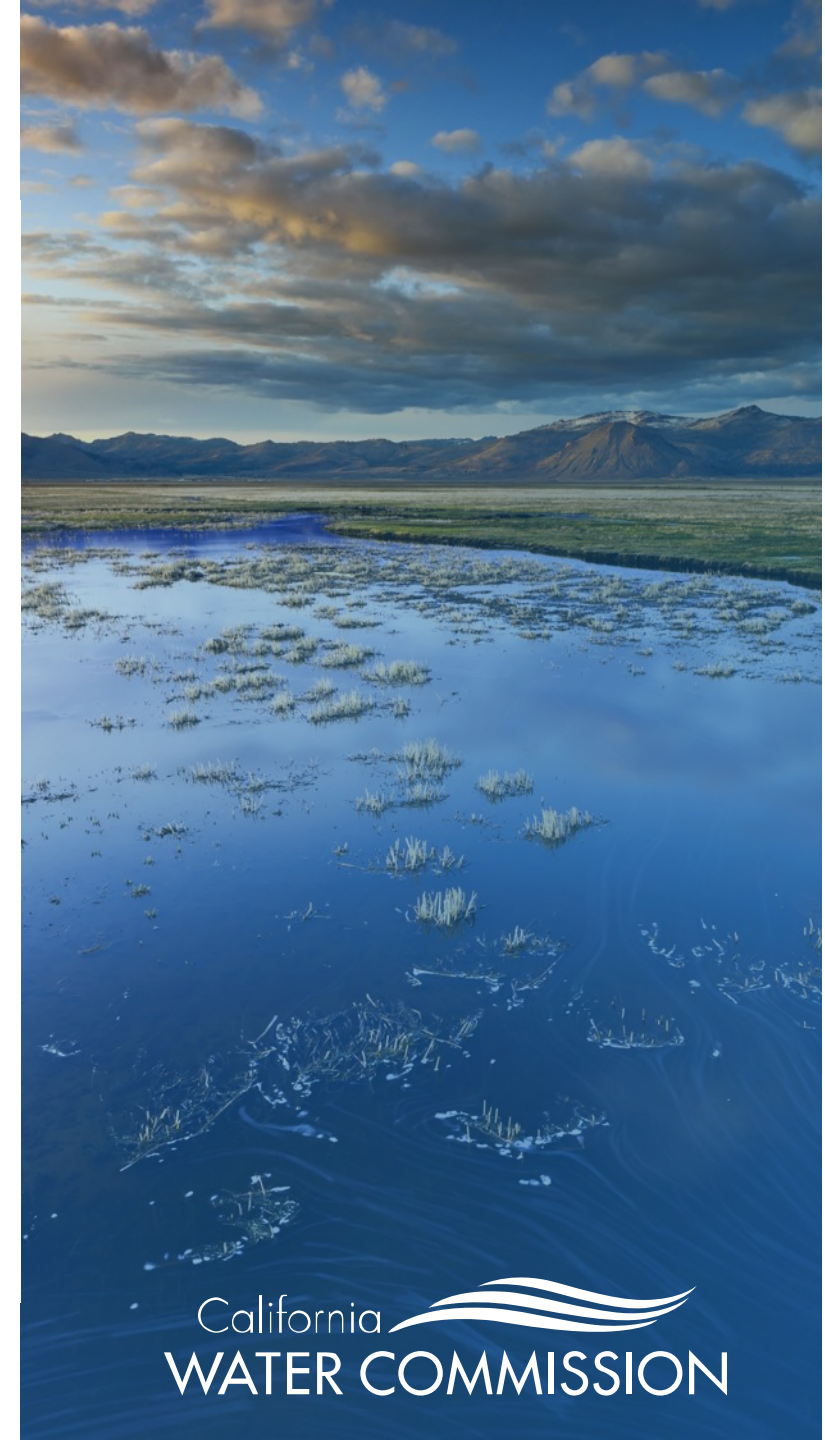


What types of climate-resilient conveyance projects should be resourced first?

	Multi-benefit/purpose projects
	Ecosystem enhancement/preservation projects
	Projects with Human Right to Water focus
	Projects that support SGMA
	Projects that promote local/regional self sufficiency
	Projects to achieve interties, consolidations
	Projects to facilitate water trading and banking
	State Water Project/Central Valley Project infrastructure projects

Priority

	Multi-benefit/ purpose projects	Ecosystem enhancement/ preservation	Human Right to Water	SGMA	local/ regional self sufficiency	Interties, consolidations	Water trading and banking	State Water Project/Central Valley Project
Southeast	2	3	5	4	1	8	7	6
South	2	5	4	6	1	7	8	3
Northern	2	4	5	3	1	8	7	6
Central	4	8	5	1	3	7	6	2



Southeastern

- Environmental concerns with Salton Sea
- Cross-boundary issues with Colorado River and Mexico
- Historical context of conveyance — viewed with suspicion
- Local geography a problem—remote and spread out



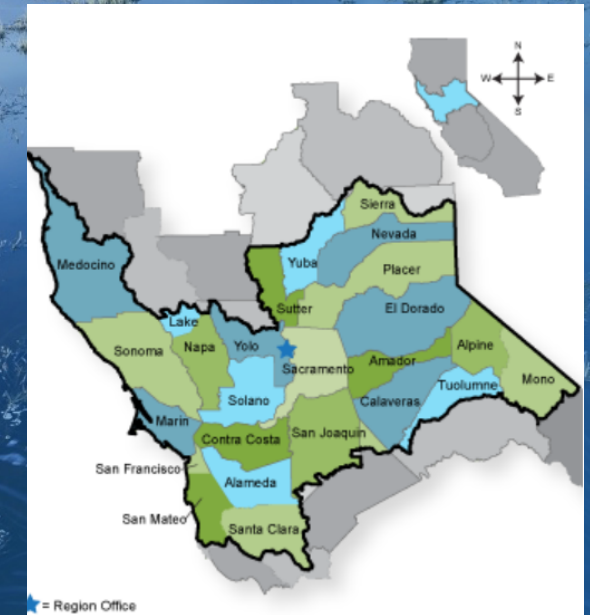
Southern

- Partnerships can be with immediate neighbors or in different regions or states
 - Wholesalers helping retailers with interties and water treatment
 - Interstate relationship with Colorado River basin states
- Different types of water and conveyance—recycled water and desalination



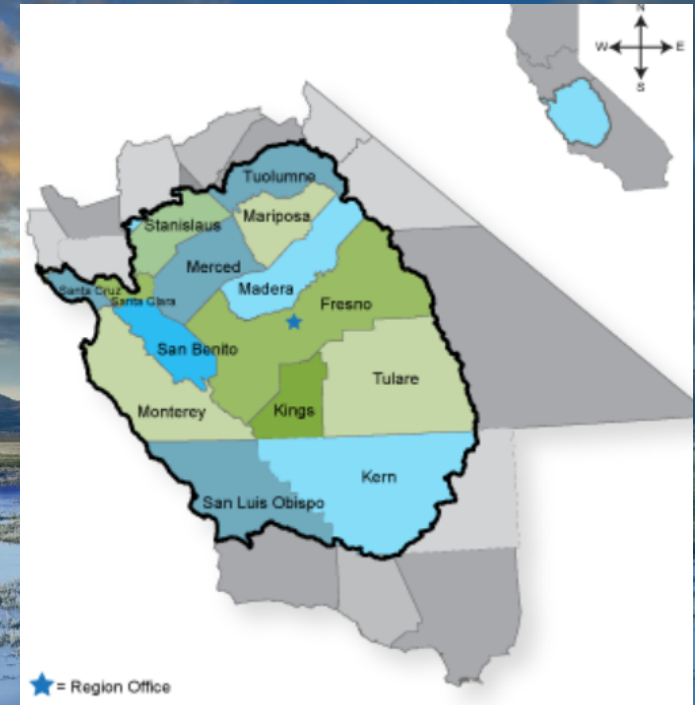
Northern

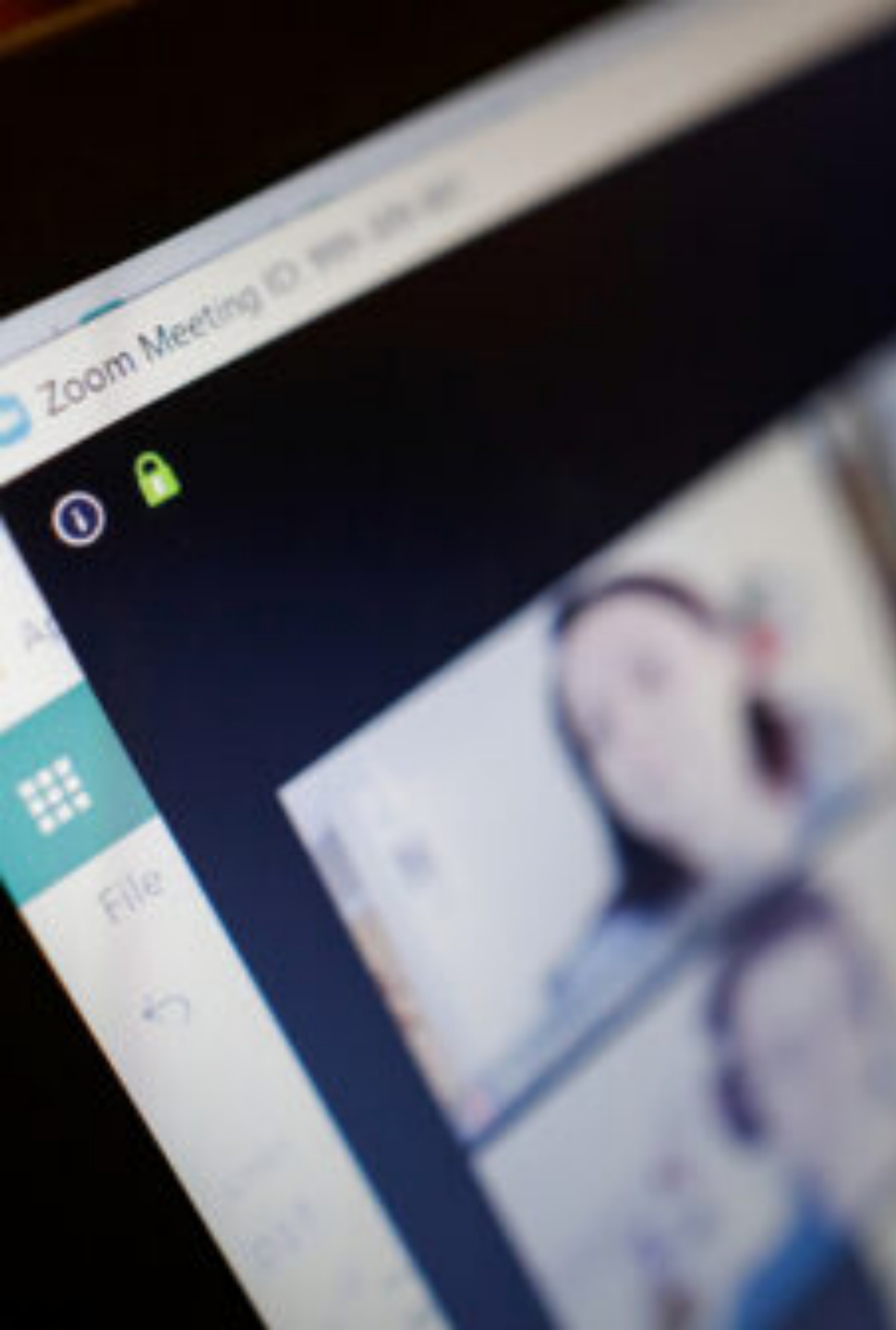
- Mountain counties: update very old, existing infrastructure
 - Limited by rate payer base
 - Natural conveyance: forest, meadows, rivers
-
- Connection of upper and lower watershed
 - Environmental uses considered
 - Impacts of wildfire
 - Interties to promote resilience



Central

- Fix subsidence related issues on SWP and CVP infrastructure
 - Disadvantaged Communities and Human Right to Water
 - Connection to SGMA; groundwater banking
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- Central Coast not connected to large State infrastructure, focused on local reliance
 - Flood management is part of the equation too





Lessons Learned

- Logistics, Logistics
- Hosting
- Connection
- Generosity